

BUILDERS' GUIDE

WHETHER you are contemplating the erection of a chicken house or a business block, a bungalow, or an apartment house, the time to build is NOW. It's the concensus of opinion among material men throughout the country that owing to economic conditions, labor unrest and the railway strike, the cost of building material both in hardware and lumber, as well as brick and cement, will not be less than at present for some time to come and that any day may see the end of the comparatively low prices, with a sharp advance in all lines. TAKE THE EXPERT ADVICE OF THE ADVERTISERS ON THIS PAGE AND BUILD NOW.

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U. S. FLEET COMBINED AT COAST BASE

Three Capital Ships, Fast Cruisers, Subs, Aircraft Coming

San Pedro will become the greatest naval center in the western hemisphere under the orders announced by the Navy department last week, abolishing the Pacific and Atlantic fleets, and ordering the establishment of the "United States Battle Fleet," whose base will be in the local harbor.

Under the navy reorganization plan announced, fourteen or fifteen of the most powerful super-dreadnaughts of the navy will be based on San Pedro, with scores of smaller vessels of the base force, submarines, airplanes, etc. Population of the city will be increased by many thousands of navy men and their families, probably within six months.

The United States navy will be divided into four units under the reorganization plan, namely, the battle fleet, scouting fleet, control force, and base force. The main fighting strength of the navy, prepared to engage an enemy fleet, will be based on San Pedro. Light cruiser divisions, destroyer squadrons, airplane squadrons, and such submarine divisions as may be assigned will be based here with the battleships, according to the official announcement.

The scouting fleet's duty will be to locate the enemy preparatory to engagement of the battle fleet, and will be composed of battleship divisions, light cruiser divisions, destroyer squadrons, aircraft squadrons, submarine divisions, and train.

The control force, organized to exercise control of the sea after the battle fleet has engaged the enemy and obtained the control, will be composed of cruiser divisions, destroyer squadrons and mine squadrons. Mine, destroyer, and aircraft squadrons and train will make up the base force, which will support the operations of the fighting forces.

Direct results of the navy reorganization as outlined by Admiral Edward W. Eberle, commander-in-chief of the Pacific fleet, will include the addition of at least three superdreadnaughts to the present Pacific fleet, namely the Maryland, West Virginia, and Colorado, just completed or under construction, and possibly the Washington, which is being built. With eleven battleships already based permanently at San Pedro, the total number will be increased to fourteen or fifteen immediately.

Basing of the main battle force of the navy on San Pedro was laid to "strategical reasons" by Admiral Eberle. With the entire fighting force based here, better results will be obtained in maneuvers, target practice and other exercises, and in the training of the men, he said.

General conditions also help bring about the basing of the mighty navy here. All of the latest and most powerful superdreadnaughts are oil burners, and as the navy's oil sources are centered in Southern California, the basing of the ships here will eliminate the long haul of the fuel oil through the Panama Canal to the East Coast, according to the admiral. Weather conditions here are also of paramount importance in the navy department's actions.

BUSINESS GOOD

Southern California has qualified as the official business oasis of the nation, according to a survey made recently by Collector Goodcell, which shows that business conditions in this district are 253.5 per cent better than the trade situation which prevails in the United States taken as a whole. The report shows that the decrease in internal revenue collections of the sixty-four districts in the country for 1922, as compared with 1921, was 30.42 per cent, while the percentage of the Los Angeles district was only 12 per cent, which is less than the normal reduction in taxes under the new revenue bill.

NOTHING BUT TROUBLE

(From Los Angeles Times)
Now they say that the great disturber is the motor cop on the highway. He roars up and down the country roads with his exhaust wide open, giving imitation of the battle of Verdun. The racket is frightful and the dwellers along the boulevards are becoming nervous wrecks. On the roads between Pasadena and Glendale hundreds of once respectable residents have become as crazy as loons through the ceaseless explosive activities of the alleged guardians of the highway. It sounds like heavy cannonading out Eagle Rock way.

The political candidates that make the most confident promises about producing a heaven on earth seem most likely to get elected.

CHRISTMAS FEAST FOR BIRDS

Feathery Tribe in Bosnia Not Forgotten—Food Placed Near Nests and Shelters.

CHRISTMAS is not merely a festival celebrated by and for man alone. Among the folklore of other countries are several quaint stories in which animals and birds give evidence of their adoration. A well-known Bosnian legend offers a version of world-adoration. They claim that on the holy day "the sun in the east bowed down, the stars stood still; the mountains and forests shook and touched the earth with their summits, and the green pine tree bent; the grass was be-flowered with the opening of blossoms; incense sweet as myrrh pervaded upland and forest; birds sang on the mountain tops and all give thanks to the great God."

In Bosnia on Christmas Day a sheaf of rye is put near birds' nests and bird houses for the birds' Christmas.

An old Indian legend says that on Christmas night all the deer in the forest kneel in adoration before the Great Spirit. Woe to him, however, who tries to spy upon them. He is punished with perpetual stiffening of the knees.

Many people of the Old World claim that on Christmas night animals are gifted with speech, but none must trespass or eavesdrop.

Many and many have been the tales which account for the robin's red breast. In great many parts of Europe he is called the Savior's bird, and a story is told that when the Christ was crucified the robin, unable to stand His suffering, ventured to pluck the thorns from His head. In doing so, the blood stained the robin's breast, which sign he wears today.

USE OF CHRISTMAS STOCKING

Custom Comes From Sunny Italy Where Poor First Used Long Knitted Purse.

THE custom of hanging up stockings on Christmas Eve comes to us from a land far across the ocean—from sunny Italy.

In the city of Padua, long ago, good old St. Nicholas used to go about the streets after dark and throw through the windows of the homes of the poor people long knitted purses, tied at both ends, and containing much needed coins. These purses were made of yarn, and when untied looked not unlike a footless stocking.

Finally, as time went on, the poor people, hoping thus to remind the more fortunate of their needs, used to hang these empty purses out of the windows on the night before Christmas, so that a gift might be placed in them.

In the north country, where the weather is cold at Christmas time, the purses were hung by the chimney place in the hope that St. Nicholas would drop his offering down the chimney.

When the purses went out of fashion stockings as the thing most like them were used in their stead, and that is why we today still observe the practice and the custom.

"COME AN' GONE!"

IN THE days before prohibition, an old, southern parky was wont to celebrate Christmas with a quiet and solitary bottle of liquor. Upon one occasion he was going home with his prize under his arm, when he stumbled on the curbstone. The bottle slipped, fell and broke, spilling the contents all over the pavement.

The old parky regarded the catastrophe with gentle mournfulness. "Dere, now," he murmured, "Christmas come an' gone!"

CHRISTMAS DAY IN ICELAND

SUCH a strong-winged thing is Christmas Cheer that it has betaken itself even to that isolated island of the far north, where the shortest day is four hours long, and where at Christmas time the sun does not rise above the horizon for a week.

Christmas is a great day with the people of Iceland and they still cling to all their old customs and songs and the day to them is one of great happiness.

One of their favorite old songs is filled with simplicity that is touching and yet gives a glimpse of a philosophy of life that is pretty fine: "When I go good and think aright At peace with man, resigned to God, Thou lookst on me with eyes of light, Tasting new joys in joy's abode."



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SAGE TEA KEEPS YOUR HAIR DARK

When Mixed With Sulphur it Brings Back Its Beautiful Lustre At Once

Gray hair, however handsome, denotes advancing age. We all know the advantages of a youthful appearance. Your hair is your charm. It makes or mars the face. When it fades, turns gray and looks streaked, just a few applications of Sage Tea and Sulphur enhances its appearance a hundred-fold. Don't stay gray! Look young! Either prepare the recipe at home or get from any drug store a bottle of "Wyley's Sage and Sulphur Compound," which is merely the old-time recipe improved by the addition of other ingredients. Thousands of folks recommend this ready-to-use preparation, because it darkens the hair beautifully, besides, no one can possibly tell, as it darkens so naturally and evenly. You moisten a sponge or soft brush with it, drawing this through the hair, taking one small strand at a time. By morning the gray hair disappears; after another application or two, its natural color is restored and it becomes thick, glossy and lustrous, and you appear years younger.

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